

Billie Brings a Revolution in Music

From homeschooling to huge shows, rapid rise to fame has no better example than, 17 year-old, Billie Eilish. The young singer incorporates her unique style into everything she does. From the clothing she wears to the music she sings, she always strives to be different from others creating her own path, following the beat of her own songs. Since the release of her first single "[Ocean Eyes](#)," in 2017, she has gained fame, and popularity for her unique voice and lyrics. Not many people have a voice quite like Billie's. Her voice is melancholy and somewhat empty, however her control over it is impeccable, showing an obvious difference from other singers nowadays. She writes all her own music with her brother, Finneas O'Connell, who also creates and releases his own unique singles. With the genius partnership between the two, the music they create is unlike anything created nowadays. In a world filled with songs about sex, drugs, and alcohol, nothing is more refreshing than Billie Eilish's creativity, perspective, and edgy sound. The culmination of these three things were truly showcased in her debut EP "Dont Smile At Me," where she brings her dark lyrics together with catchy beats, and occasional feature. This EP perfectly exemplifies who Billie Eilish is as an artist, and person. It captures exactly what modern day music should be, and establishes a standard for other artists to achieve. No wonder she achieved such great heights in such a short timeframe. From songs with deep beats and a catchy drop like "[My Boy](#)," to her more ominous tone in "[Idontwannabeyouanymore](#)," Billie Eilish's "Dont Smile At Me," EP is a musical journey through the dark and twisted mind of the 17-year-old.

Billie Eilish introduces her EP with the first song "[Copycat](#)." This song brings exactly what young audiences are used to hearing, with a new and dark twist. Billie Eilish begins the

song with establishing a deep beat, creating the perfect air for a rap song. However, she switches it up, and instead creates a musical masterpiece, while singing about another person who is trying to copy her style, and music. She makes certain to warn this person with lyrics such as “Watch your back when you can’t watch mine,” and “You just crossed the line.” These lyrics draw the listener into the narrative of the song of lyrics. With the deep beats eventually softening into a piano showcasing her forgiveness, she sings “psych,” in a whisper tone, reverting to the beat previously created. Billie Eilish creates a deeply threatening tone towards the subject of the song, making sure to let them know that no one can replicate her genius. With this song, she creates a perfect intro into what her EP is going to be. Hitting young people with the strong beat they so desire, while mixing in shady lyrics for an alternative audience was definitely the correct move for the 17-year-old, making “Copycat,” one of the most popular songs on her debut EP.

Breaking societal standards was definitely her mission with her next track. She creates a soft, melancholy tone with a piano and guitar. She hits significantly higher notes with the angelic, yet empty tone of her voice. She speaks in this song about the significance of slutshaming in this song named “[Idontwannabeyouanymore](#).” With the title of the song, she makes certain to let listeners know that she doesn’t want to be like other girls, specifically models stating in her lyrics “If teardrops could be bottled, There’d be swimming pools filled by models.” Her lyrics also create a dark undertone, by creating an air of regret, about being herself. Revealing this deep tone of self-hatred draws audiences, as it is a relatable feeling to many people. Although the song is pure lyrical genius, the song simply can’t compare to some of the others written, and produced on this album. It can be easily forgotten when placed in between songs with heavy beats and iconic tones such as “Copycat,” and “My Boy.”

Following the deep and dark journey that is “Idontwannabeyouanymore,” her song “[My Boy](#),” has a far more superficial, and pop sound. Many people begin to believe that she may be singing another soft track about how in love with her “boy” she is, however a quick turn in the lyrics and beat, lead the listener into a song criticising her “boy” for not being honest and not treating her correctly. This playful take on a modern day love song, reveals what unglorified and imperfect love truly is. It’s a refreshing take on the songs that artists such as Taylor Swift create about idealized love. She takes the concept of unconditional and unproblematic love, flips it on its head, and creates a hard beat to truly take a deeper look at dishonesty and what is needed in modern day relationships. Starting off with a slow beat then quickly turning it into a faster pace to match the lyrics seems to be a staple concept which leads to the excellence of the songs by Billie Eilish, and Finneas O’Connell. With a great control of her falsetto, Eilish will often tap into this to overlap tracks, and create a distinct sound which her listeners have fallen in love with. With two drops in the beat of this song, it is clearly a front runner among other cliched songs about love. This song is by far one of the most catchy on the album, and is a go to for anyone who is going through a rough break up.

A match strikes, and a light and airy voice introduces the next song... “[Watch](#).” This song is reprised in “[&Burn](#),” with Vince Staples, leading to two different takes on the song. While “Watch,” hits home with a lighter beat, an iconic falsetto, and beautiful high notes, the song title “&Burn,” truly exemplifies the song, and brings the rap element we’ve all been craving. The beat and tone of “Watch,” best showcases Billie’s versatility, and best supports the lyrics. With the slow intro, Billie begins this song by describing a potential love interest, and how he is the only one she sees. It quickly moves into a song telling another previous love

interest, how she thought that they might turn into something, however that time is long past. She knows that the fire in her was started by the original love interest, however it quickly spiraled out of control, when she was not the only person he seemed to be talking to. This leads to her metaphorically starting a fire to hurt him, with the fire that he started in her. She describes her agony over him asking “And you close your eyes, Do you picture me?” This leads to a stop in the background music, with Billie finally having a realization, that she’s finally free. With a change in pace, “&Burn,” presents a more distinct, intrusive beat which draws the listener into an eventual rap by artist Vince Staples. Vince’s rap, seems to have longing lyrics, presented in a high paced rap with a loud beat. Vince’s rap fits flawlessly into the tone of the song, making it an excellent addition to the original. While “Watch,” presents an excellent take on the song and truly captures the longing for lost love and hurt felt with the falsetto, and slow beat. However, “&Burn,” satisfies those who long for rap. “Watch,” is superior to “&Burn,” simply due to the showcase of Billie’s breathy tone, and range.

From start to end, Billie’s EP was an absolutely spectacular musical journey. Her songs and lyrics took you through the deep inner workings of the young musician’s mind. It showcased her uniquely perfect voice, excellent range, and incomparable control over her voice. This young songwriter is so impressive. Not only is she writing and singing her music, but the 17 year-old is redefining what pop/alternative music should sound like. Music nowadays has nothing quite like Billie Eilish. Discovering this young artist feels as if you have found a diamond in the rough. Although Billie Eilish is largely known, she still feels like a secret known by few. With the way that pop music is heading, Billie Eilish presents something out of the ordinary that makes listeners want to listen again, and again, and again. Billie Eilish’s debut album is set to release on

March 29, 2019, and with her past music, as well as her new releases, this album is sure to live up to the legacy she has built for herself so far. With songs such as “[when the party's over](#),” and “[bury a friend](#),” all her listeners can’t wait to see what the future holds. As for the “Don’t Smile At Me,” EP, this reviewer would rate this EP an 8.7 out of 10.

Rules

To write this review of Billie Eilish’s “Don’t Smile at Me” EP, I used multiple rules which I found in other music reviews. In these reviews I found several commonly discussed concepts and topics when it comes to reviewing music. The reviews in which I found this information was a review of Ariana Grande’s “Sweetner,” by Jillian Mapes, and Post Malone’s “Beerbongs and Bentleys,” by Evan Rytlewski

1. The most important thing done in these reviews is critiquing the overall sound of the album. An album is only as good as its worst song, meaning that overall, the album has to be really good to gain praise from multiple sources. Reviewers opinion of the overall album is the most important part, because if you are to read only the beginning of the review with an overview, you will know whether or not an album is worth listening to, or if to disregard it, and go back to your old classics.
2. One of the more nit picky things done in a review is the critique of an artist’s voice. To create a good album, the musician must first and foremost have a great voice to compliment the music. Everyone has different things that appeal to them in a musician’s voice, however you should take this on a genre by genre basis. A pop musician’s voice should sound different from a country musician’s voice. You must critique and describe it

in a way, that when the reader is listening to the album, they understand exactly what you meant. They need to be able to hear the tone, the range, and the differences in the individual songs that you discussed.

3. To give context to their new music, you must discuss an artists past works. Readers will be able to listen to previous albums to see how the musician differs from now, to the previous albums. This lets the reader understand why this album is either better or worse than the previous one released. The reader will better understand the past of the artist if they are to read some information about previous works.
4. Along with discussing past works, you must be certain to discuss how the artist's sound has developed over time. You must discuss how it has changed, and evolved as well as discussing the development of sound within their individual songs. This will effectively communicate to the reader what kind of beat and feel each song has. It is also another comparison point for you to discuss.
5. Lastly, discussing lyrical themes and the writers behind the music is important. If a listener relates to the lyrics, it makes the song even more likely to secure a listen from even the pickiest of customers. When you discuss the lyrics, you must point out underlying themes and how they add to the music being played in the background, (ex. lighthearted lyrics with upbeat guitar, darker lyrics and a beat drop).

These are all important factors when writing a review on music, so make certain to discuss these aspects of different songs.